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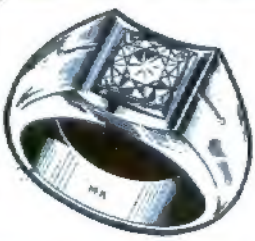

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IT'S A PARTY AND HORTENSE HAGG HAS MIXED A TASTY LITTLE COCKTAIL FOR YOU CHARACTERS WHO ARE DESPERATE ENOUGH TO GO INTO THAT COZY ☆ UGH! ☆ LITTLE ROOM WITH HER. IF YOU DRINK HER DRINK, YOU'LL THINK SHE'S A THING of BEAUTY
THAT OLD GRAVE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR ITS OCCUPANT FOR HALF A CENTURY... AND EV HARCUTT WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO REST HIS WEARY BONES IN IT... BUT THE OCCUPANTS OF THE OTHER TWO GRAVES ARE A MITE PARTICULAR ABOUT WHO SHARES THEIR BOUDOIR. GET THE DETAILS IN The 3RD GRAVE
EVERETT HARCUTT
BEN
GHOSTLY TALES

GHOSTLY TALES Vol. 5, No. 81, August, 1970,

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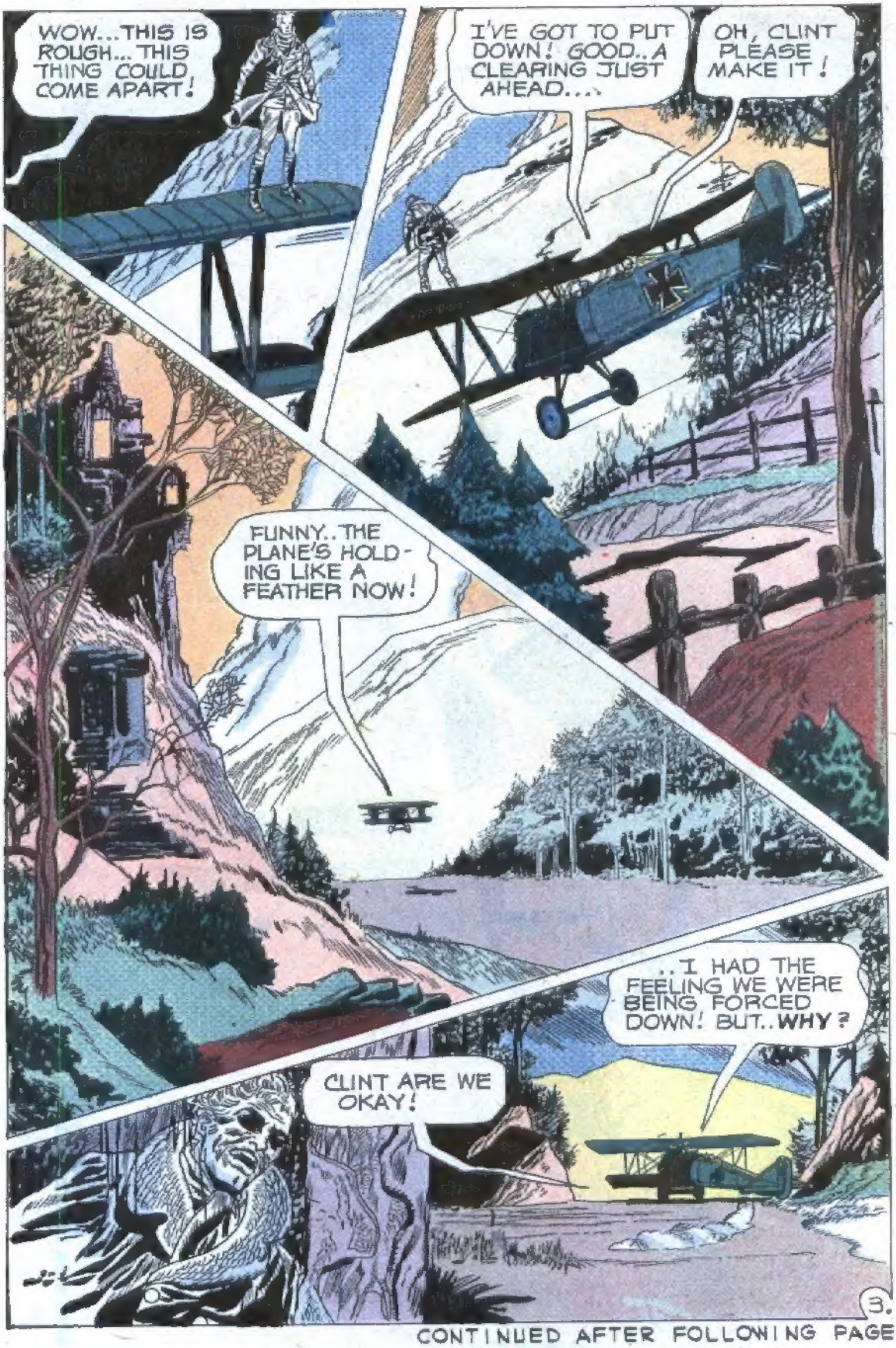
OBSERVE YOUNG CLINTON AMES, AFFLUENT AMERICAN, AS HE INDULGES IN THE CONTINENTAL SPORT OF BUYING A VINTAGE AIRCRAFT! THIS LITTLE TALE I CALL... GERMANY'S...
UNEASY RIDER
AND SAFE MR. SCHMITT ?
BELIEVE ME, MR. AMES... THIS IS A GREAT AIR-PLANE, AND THE PRICE IS RIDICULOUSLY LOW!
AND IT'S AN AUTHENTIC FLUGGER II.
D-173
ALL RIGHT... I'LL TAKE IT!
OH, CLINT.. I'M GOING TO.. ADORE THIS PLANE...
GET IN, EDNA ..THE BEAUTY IS ALL OURS NOW!
1.

OH..THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! LET'S FOLLOW THE RIVER ..MAYBE WE CAN SEE SOME OF THE OLD CASTLES!
CLINT... MAKE IT STOP BOUNCING!
..IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE IS STANDING ON THE WING...
I..I CAN'T..IT MUST BE THE UPDRAFTS BUT...


WOW...THIS IS ROUGH... THIS THING COULD COME APART!
I'VE GOT TO PUT DOWN! GOOD..A CLEARING JUST AHEAD....
OH, CLINT PLEASE MAKE IT!
FUNNY..THE PLANE'S HOLDING LIKE A FEATHER NOW!
..I HAD THE FEELING WE WERE BEING FORCED DOWN! BUT..WHY?
CLINT ARE WE OKAY!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG.. BUT I'M NOT TAKING IT UP AGAIN UNTIL SCHMITT CHECKS IT OUT! WE'LL HAVE TO WALK BACK TO THE FIELD!
CLINT, LOOK!
OH.. CLINT ..WHAT FANTASTIC RUINS!
NOT HERE... MUST HAVE MOVED ON...
.. WELL I THOUGHT I SAW...
YES, HE'S UP THERE .. HEY!
THERE'S SOMEONE STANDING BY THOSE TREES!

CLINT.. THERE HE IS AGAIN ..HE'S GOING IN THE RUINS!
HEY! WAIT UP! ER... ABWARTEN SATZ, MEIN FREUND! COME ON, EDNA!
HOW COULD HE COME THROUGH HERE AND NOT BREAK THESE COBWEBS!
THIS PLACE IS OLD!
AND MUSTY!
THIS IS WEIRD!
EDNA.. HOW ABOUT THIS?
WE ARE NOT THIEVES!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN!?

HELLO.. IS ANYONE HERE?
GULP!
CLINT!
WE ARE NOT TH
I DON'T KNOW.. BUT HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM!
..HE MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH THAT DOOR!
WH..WHO IS HE?
WHY NOT? HE DOESN'T SEEM HOSTILE!
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD?
HE'S VANISHED!
CREEK

EDNA.. THIS IS INCREDIBLE! WHAT A STAGGERING TREASURE TROVE!
CLINT... THESE ARE ART OBJECTS .. PROBABLY HIDDEN DURING WORLD WAR TWO!
WHAT A STORY TO TELL THE FLYING CLUB!
BUT, WE'D BETTER TELL IT TO THE AUTHORITIES FIRST!
I.. AM.. SORRY BUT I CAN NOT PERMIT YOU TO DO THAT! THIS IS MY FORTUNE!
?
NO.. MR. SCHMITT! SUCH BEAUTY BELONGS TO THE WORLD!
IT BELONGS TO THE ONE WHO CAN TAKE IT.. AND I TOOK IT! IT IS MY PAYMENT FOR THE MANY HOURS I FLEW IN THAT STINKING WAR!
WHO SAID THAT?
.. AND JUST BECAUSE YOU STUMBLED IN HERE I'M NOT GOING TO LET.. HUH?
WE ARE NOT THIE

I AM A REPRESENTIVE OF THOSE FLIERS WHO FOUGHT LIKE SOLDIERS - NOT POLITICIANS AND CRIMINALS! I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU TO JUDGEMENT FOR YOUR DEEDS THAT DISHONOR US! COME, HERR SCHMITT!
NO!
NO.. GOOD LORD-THIS IS INSANE... NO..I WILL NOT GO WITH YOU.. I..
BOW
CLINT... LISTEN... OUR PLANE!
HE.. HE'S NOT HERE! HES GONE!
CLINT AND EDNA RUSH TO AID THE FALLEN MAN, BUT ....
AS SCHMITT TAKES A STEP OF RETREAT, ANCIENT STONES GIVE WAY AND....
AIEEE
CLINT..I CAN'T SEE ANYONE IN IT.. IT'S FLYING BY ITSELF!
ARE YOU SURE!? BETTER TAKE A LONG LOOK... BECAUSE I DON'T THINK OUR VINTAGE FLUGGER II WILL EVER BE SEEN AGAIN...
POOR, CLINT..HE NOT ONLY LOST A PLANE..HE LOST A STORY! I WOULDN'T REPEAT THAT TALE, WOULD YOU?

GRATITUDE FROM BEYOND

The name is Jay Jensen and at once you will recognize that I am the expert on Hollywood. I have acted, written plays, and directed. For the past ten years I have been a film critic. You can say with certainty that I know every important figure in the cinema world. In a way you have to be tough to survive this kind of life. Yet I had one experience that in a way changed me. It convinced me definitely that there is a world beyond and that kindness and true gratitude somehow can exist even past the hand of final breathing.

It was 2:30 in the morning on that Thursday when my phone rang. I had finished a review of a picture. It was the first try at directing of a young actor I knew. I took the receiver off the hook.

"Jay," said the voice at the other end. "I am sending my car for you. Get here at once. I need you. Ask no questions. This is Boris Bronsky."

The two of us had been very close friends since the day he had first come to this country. I was dressed and ten minutes later his car with his chauffeur was waiting for me. Soon we were at his palacious home. One look at his face and I could tell something was wrong. He was as white as a ghost. He took me into his library and there I met Quin Wong, the best camera man in movieland. I saw a screen on the wall.

"I will come to the point of why I asked you both to come here at once," began a man who definitely was scared. You could hear his breath come in short gasps.

"You both know how much I loved the late Phyllis Raleigh. Sure, I made her a star. But she had talent. And then she was dying. Nothing could cure her. She had one last request. She wanted to act in a version of the little known opera, "Bonasta". Against my better sense, I did it for her. You, Quin Wong, were her favorite camera man. And you, Jay Jensen, helped me to direct it. She died the day the last shots were taken. But her final words were always in mind:

"I shall never forget what you did for me. Don't show the picture now. Hold it for five years. Then I will be youthful again. This I promise you."

We saw the results of that picture. She was tired and aged. It went through everything the make-up man tried. So I put it in my vault. And wrote it off as a loss. For the past three nights I have had the same dream. I see Phyllis Raleigh again. In all her youthful beauty and glory. Telling the time has come for me to release the picture. She knows things are tough at the studio, I am getting short of money and credit. This picture will make millions for me.

I want you both to watch the picture. Then tell me what you think of it."

So for more than two hours, Quin Wong and myself watched the picture on the screen in that library room. When it was finished, we were both startled. It was the youthful and vibrant actress at her best. But how had it been accomplished?

"Either by some miracle of modern science you managed to change her appearance, or else. . ."

"It is nothing I did," admitted Boris Bronsky. "We all three had to admit that which the world will not admit: That there is a world beyond. And from it, can come events to change us here on earth. I don't believe in ghosts or spirits. I am a practical man. But what am I to do? Those films were locked in my private vault. Therefore I must conclude that the spirit of my beloved one somehow decided to save me now, when my entire film empire is about to collapse."

"I took those shots," said a very subdued Quin Wong. "This is not the same Phyllis who acted in her last picture. Since I believe in a life beyond the grave, I do not question what I just saw. What do you say, Jay Jensen?"

"What do you want me to say?" I shot back at both of the men. "I saw what I saw. An impossibility took place. But you could never tell this to the outside world. All you can say is that the film was held up for distribution for five years. That is the truth."

Need I add that it made millions for Boris Bronsky and saved his film empire. Gratitude from Beyond!

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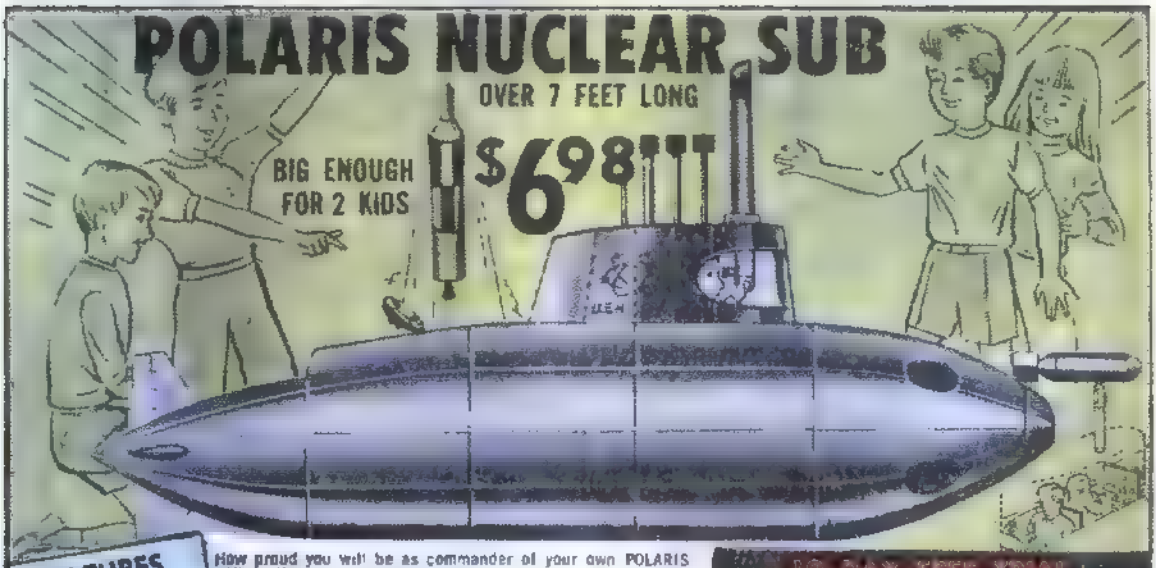

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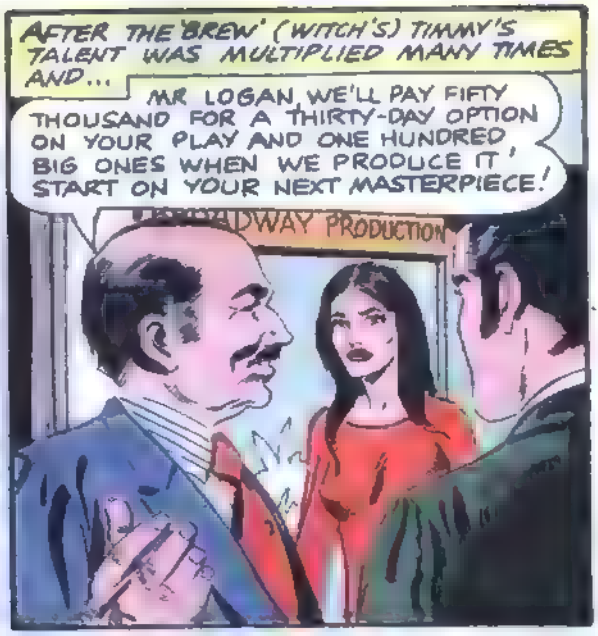
A THING OF BEAUTY
THE SUBJECT TONIGHT, CLASS, IS WITCHES! NOW, WE KNOW THAT WITCHES ARE FREQUENTLY INHUMAN, HORRID FEMALES WHO CAST EVIL SPELLS ON UNSUSPECTING ORDINARY PEOPLE... SOMETIMES THEY CHANGE THEMSELVES INTO BLACK CATS OR SPIDERS OR EVEN BILL COLLECTORS! AND OCCASIONALLY, AS WE SHALL SEE WITCHES DISGUISE THEMSELVES IN OTHER WAYS!
SWELL PARTY TH... GAAARRGHH!!
DEPART, MORTAL, BEFORE I TURN YOUR EARS INTO JUGHANDLES!
THAT MAN! THAT DEVINE MAN!
HE WILL BE MINE! HE MUST BE MINE!
LIKE, HI? I'M HORTENSE HAGG! YOU'RE NOT WITH ANYONE, ARE YOU?
I DIDN'T THINK I'D NEED A BODYGUARD BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG.

ER.. UH.. EXCUSE ME! I JUST REMEMBERED A SNAKE I SAW I'D RATHER GET BITTEN BY...
WHOOPSS!
YOU POOR MAN!
I'VE RUINED MY SUIT! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE WORN IT!
RELAX, GORGEOUS.. IT WON'T SHOW!
MAGICALLY (YES, REAL MAGIC, WITCH-WATCHERS!), THE FLUID DOESN'T STAIN AND...
NOW, YOU STAY RIGHT HERE AND LET HORTENSE GET YOU A FRESH DRINKIE!
I DON'T WANT A... YES, THAT'S IT! GET ME A FRESH DRINKIE, HORTY OLD GIRL!
THAT IS THE UGLIEST FEMALE I EVER SAW! NOW'S MY CHANCE...
I'M BACK, HONEY!
UGH!

W-WHAT IS IT?
A SPECIAL LITTLE COCKTAIL I INVENTED! NOW LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF... I'M HORTENSE HAGG, UNMARRIED AND UNATTACHED.
HU-HOW DO YOU DO, MISS HAGG I'M TIMOTHY LOGAN...ER UNMARRIED. JUST N-NEVER MET THE RIGHT GIRL I GUESS.
YOU HAVE NOW, LOVEY!
YOU'VE HEARD OF THE MOMENT OF TRUTH, DROOLS? WELL, THIS IS THE MOMENT OF FANTASY FOR TIMOTHY LOGAN...
DRINK UP, TIMMY-WHIMMY!
HOW DO I LOOK NOW, SWEETY?
YUUCCCHHH!
YOU NEED ANOTHER DOSE I MEAN ANOTHER SPECIAL COCKTAIL!
THAT WAS A LOUSY DRINK! I'LL TAKE PRUNE JUICE THIS TIME!
10 MINUTES AND THREE WITCH'S BREWS LATER...
RATHER TASTY, HORTY! YOU'D BETTER TELL ME HOW YOU MAKE THEM!
THAT ISN'T NECESSARY, CUTIE I'LL BE AROUND WHENEVER YOU'RE THIRSTY!

AT THIS PARTY, TIM LOGAN HAS MANY FRIENDS.. ALL OF WHOM COME OVER TO SET HIM STRAIGHT...
HOW CAN YOU STAND STANDING CLOSE TO HER, DARLING?
YOU PEOPLE DON'T APPRECIATE MISS HAGG!
YOU GOT YOUR LAUGHS DAD, NOW TELL HER TO TAKE OFF THE MASK AND JOIN THE GROUP! IT'S A ZINGER OF A WITCH .. COSTUME!
YOU WANT A FAT LIP ROGER? BUZZ OFF, HORTY AND I WANT TO TALK.
NOW, THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH REGARD TO HORTENSE'S APPEARANCE! THE CONSENSUS IS...SHES
...HORRIBLE!
BUT MR TIMOTHY LOGAN DOESN'T SEE HER THAT WAY!
BEAUTIFUL!
LIKE ME, DARLING?
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, HORTENSE!

NOW, TIM HAS BEEN A HACK WRITER, CONSISTENTLY UNTALENTED, FOR A FEW YEARS. SUDDENLY...
I'M GOING TO WRITE THIS PLAY JUST ONE MORE TIME, DARLING.
DON'T START UNTIL YOU DRINK THIS, DADS!

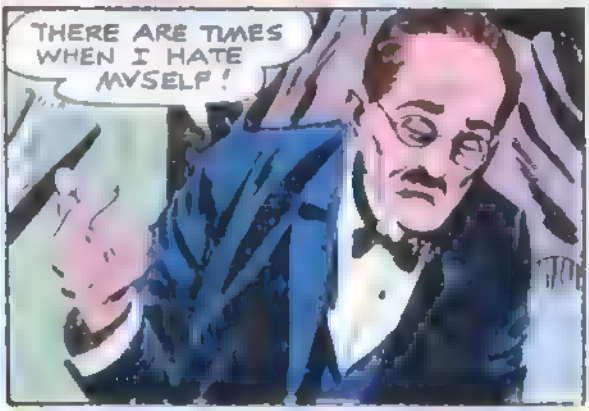

AFTER THE 'BREW' (WITCH'S) TIMMY'S TALENT WAS MULTIPLIED MANY TIMES AND...
MR LOGAN, WE'LL PAY FIFTY THOUSAND FOR A THIRTY-DAY OPTION ON YOUR PLAY AND ONE HUNDRED, BIG ONES WHEN WE PRODUCE IT. START ON YOUR NEXT MASTERPIECE!
BROADWAY PRODUCTION

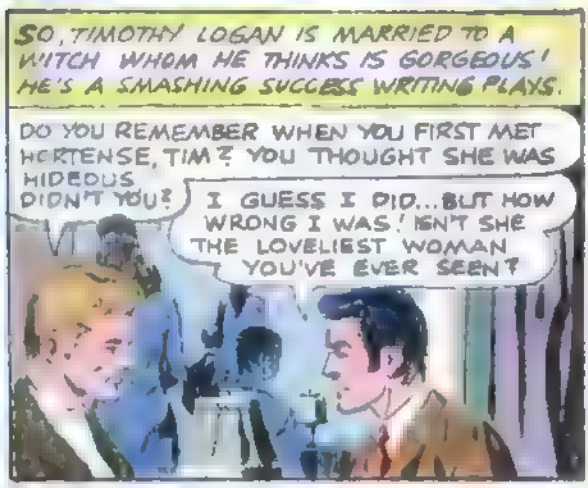
HOW CAN HE STAND LETTING HER TOUCH HIM?
TIMMY, LUV, YOUR PLAY IS MAGNIFICENT AND YOUR NEXT WILL BE TWICE AS GOOD!

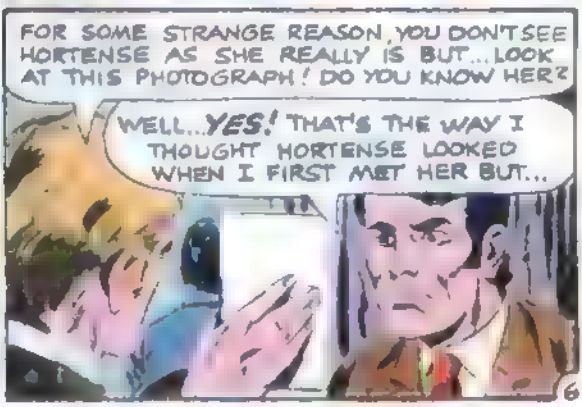
YOU UNDERSTAND IT, DON'T YOU? HORTENSE HAGG IS STILL HIDEOUS! IN TIM'S EYES, SHE IS THE VISION OF LOVELINESS WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT... BUT EVERYONE AROUND THEM KNOWS SHE'S A FRIGHT!

NOW, COMES THE INEVITABLE... OUR ENAMORED HERO PROPOSES MARRIAGE TO HORTENSE HAGG AND THE WITCH SAYS...
I DO
YOU MAY NOW ~~SOB~~ KISS THE BRIDE!

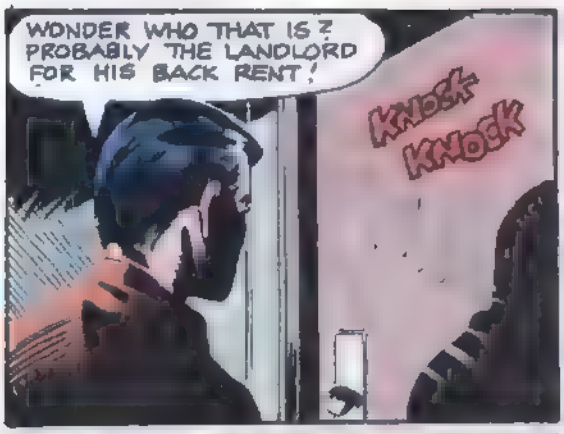
MY DEAREST WIFE!

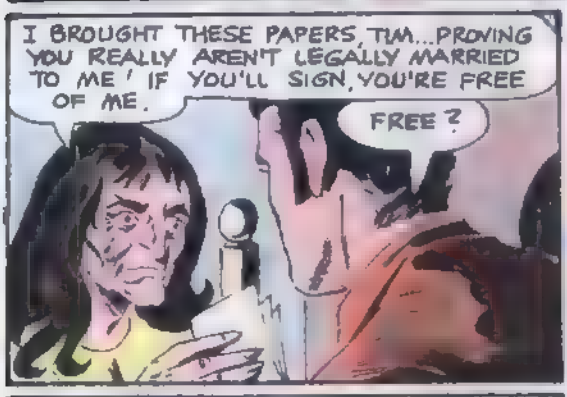

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I HATE MYSELF!

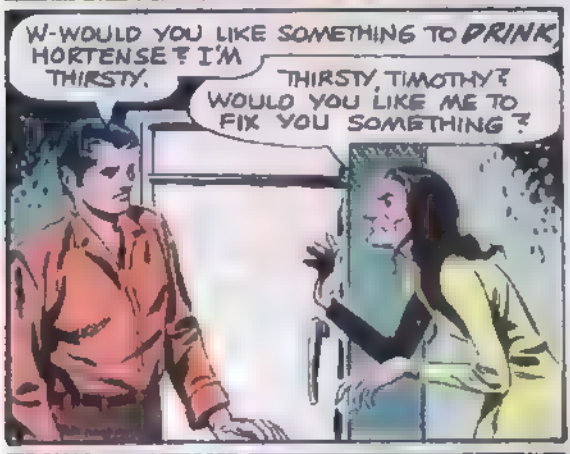

SO, TIMOTHY LOGAN IS MARRIED TO A WITCH WHOM HE THINKS IS GORGEOUS! HE'S A SMASHING SUCCESS WRITING PLAYS.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST MET HORTENSE, TIM? YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS HIDEOUS DIDN'T YOU?
I GUESS I DID... BUT HOW WRONG I WAS! ISN'T SHE THE LOVELIEST WOMAN YOU'VE EVER SEEN?


FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, YOU DON'T SEE HORTENSE AS SHE REALLY IS BUT... LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH! DO YOU KNOW HER?
WELL... YES! THAT'S THE WAY I THOUGHT HORTENSE LOOKED WHEN I FIRST MET HER BUT...

ANOTHER THING! REMEMBER BEFORE YOU MET HORTENSE, YOU COULDN'T SELL ANYTHING DECENT? YOU WERE STRICTLY A NO-TALENT GUY! HOW COME YOU SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A GENIUS?
WH-WHY, I DON'T KNOW! DO YOU KNOW?
IT'S THOSE DRINKS SHE KEEPS FEEDING YOU, BUDDY! SHE'S GOT YOU BEWITCHED INTO THINKING SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AND INTO BELIEVING THAT YOU'RE A GENIUS! YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY MEDIOCRE!
YOU MEAN IF, I DION'T DRINK HER BREW..
I'M THROUGH! I'LL NEVER TOUCH ANOTHER DROP!
SO IT IS THAT TIMOTHY SEES HORRIBLE HORTY HAGG AS SHE REALLY IS!
DAHLING, I'M BACK!
IF YOU TOUCH ME WITH THOSE CLAWS I... I'LL FAINT!
THEN, YOU... YOU KNOW!
YES, AND WE'RE THROUGH!
SO TIMOTHY LOGAN BECOMES CLEAR OF EYE, SEEING HORTENSE IN ALL HER ROTTEN REALITY.. AND NUMB OF MIND, BACKSLIDING TO HIS FORMER INEPTITUDE!
CAN'T SELL A LINE.. I'M STARVING!
BESIDES I'M LONELY!

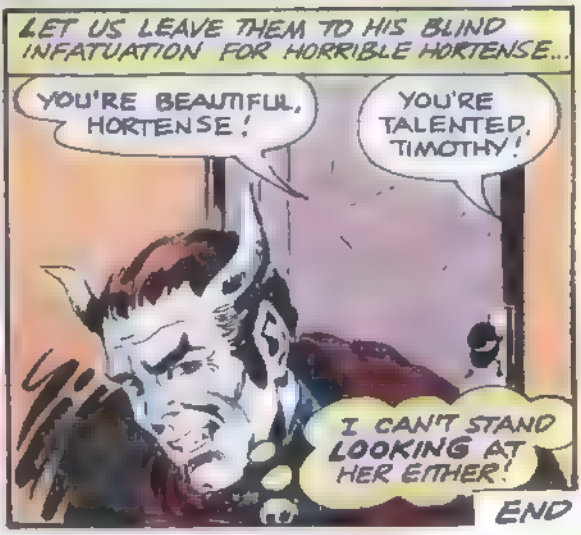

WONDER WHO THAT IS? PROBABLY THE LANDLORD FOR HIS BACK RENT!
KNOCK KNOCK


I BROUGHT THESE PAPERS, TIM...PROVING YOU REALLY AREN'T LEGALLY MARRIED TO ME! IF YOU'LL SIGN, YOU'RE FREE OF ME.
FREE?


W-WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK HORTENSE? I'M THIRSTY.
THIRSTY, TIMOTHY? WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO FIX YOU SOMETHING?

YOU MEAN...?
YES, HORTENSE... ONE OF YOUR SPECIAL BREWS!

TIMOTHY KNOWS HE'S GOING TO BE BEWITCHED ONCE MORE! HE KNOWS THAT HORRIBLE HORTY WILL BE BEAUTIFUL TO HIM AGAIN... AND HE'LL BE DELUDED INTO THINKING HE'S A GENIUS BUT...
HORTENSE, DARLING... I LOVE YOU!
DRINK UP, LUV... I'LL FIX YOU ANOTHER!


LET US LEAVE THEM TO HIS BLIND INFATUATION FOR HORRIBLE HORTENSE...
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, HORTENSE!
YOU'RE TALENTED, TIMOTHY!
I CAN'T STAND LOOKING AT HER EITHER!
END

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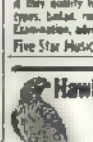

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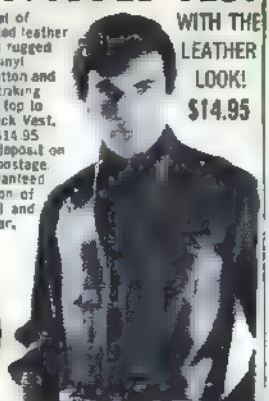

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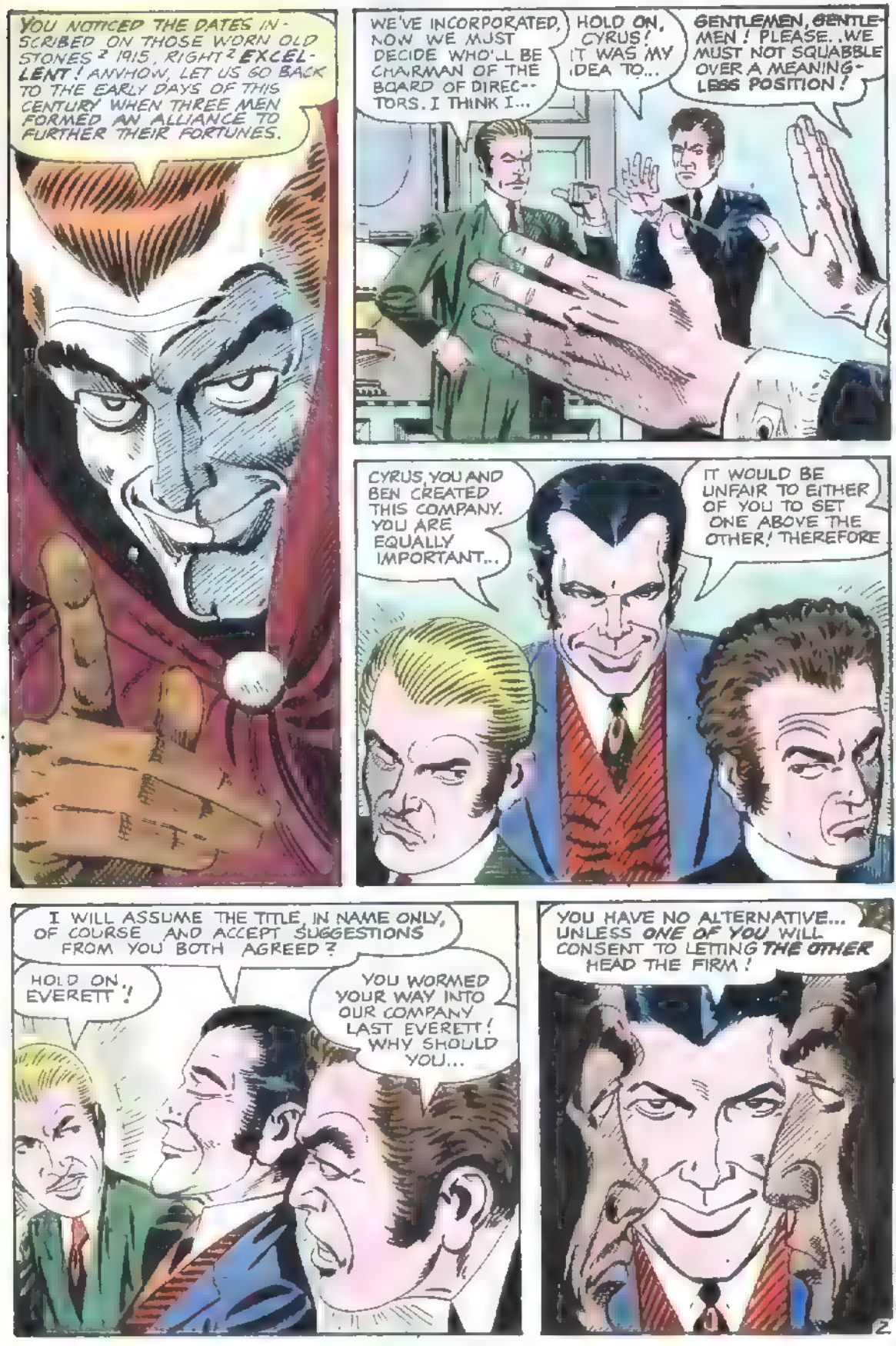
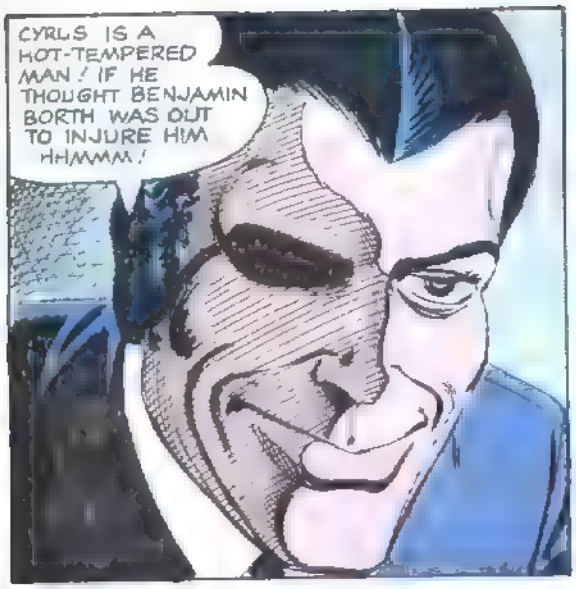
THE 3RD GRAVE

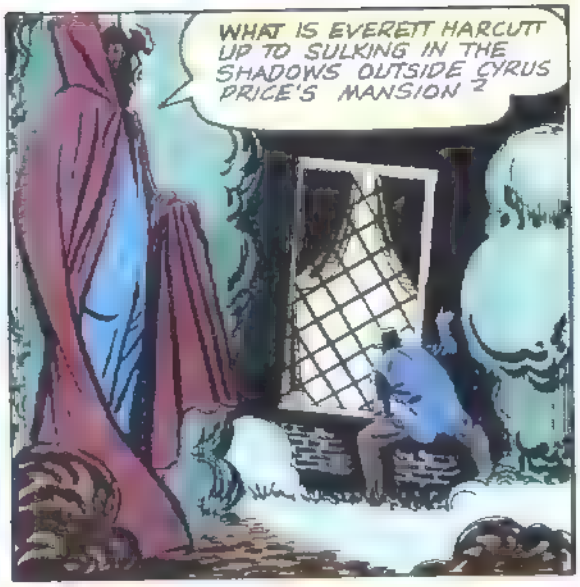
HEH HEH HEH THIS IS WHERE I COME ON MY DAY OFF, HEH HEH HEH. OBSERVE, GRISLY GROVELERS AT THE GRAVE, THESE TWO HEADSTONES OF MEN, MORTAL ENEMIES WHO HAD THEMSELVES BURIED SIDE BY SIDE! HATE DOMINATED THEIR LIVES A HATE SO DEEP THEIR LAST WISHES WERE TO BE BURIED BESIDE EACH OTHER SO THEY COULD NURTURE THAT HATRED THROUGH ALL ETERNITY!

NOW! OBSERVE **THE 3RD GRAVE!** IT WAS DUG 53 YEARS AGO WHEN THESE TWO MEN DIED TO RECEIVE THE BODY OF A MAN NAMED EVERETT HARCUTT... AND THIS IS THE STORY OF WHY HE IS THERE, WALKING TOWARD HIS GRAVE, AS HE DOES EACH DAY, RAIN OR SHINE INSTEAD OF LYING BENEATH THE EARTH WHERE BY RIGHT HE SHOULD BE!

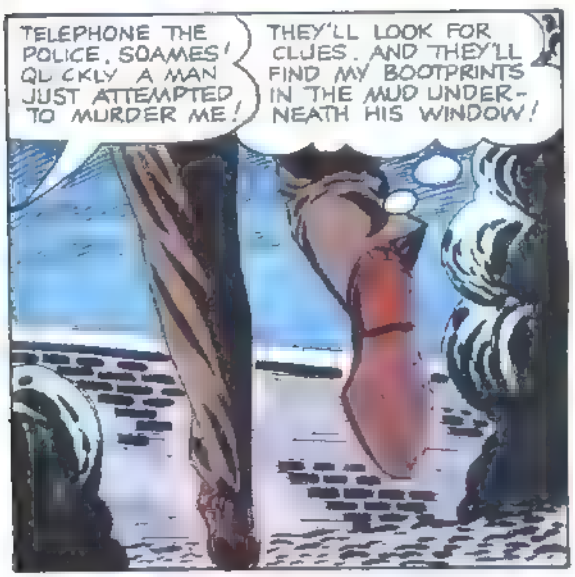

YOU NOTICED THE DATES INSCRIBED ON THOSE WORN OLD STONES? 1915, RIGHT? EXCELLENT! ANYHOW, LET US GO BACK TO THE EARLY DAYS OF THIS CENTURY WHEN THREE MEN FORMED AN ALLIANCE TO FURTHER THEIR FORTUNES.
WE'VE INCORPORATED, NOW WE MUST DECIDE WHO'LL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. I THINK I...
HOLD ON, CYRUS! IT WAS MY IDEA TO...
GENTLEMEN, GENTLEMEN! PLEASE. WE MUST NOT SQUABBLE OVER A MEANINGLESS POSITION!
CYRUS, YOU AND BEN CREATED THIS COMPANY. YOU ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT...
IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO EITHER OF YOU TO SET ONE ABOVE THE OTHER! THEREFORE
I WILL ASSUME THE TITLE, IN NAME ONLY, OF COURSE AND ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS FROM YOU BOTH AGREED?
HOLD ON, EVERETT!
YOU WORMED YOUR WAY INTO OUR COMPANY LAST EVERETT! WHY SHOULD YOU...
YOU HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE... UNLESS ONE OF YOU WILL CONSENT TO LETTING THE OTHER HEAD THE FIRM!

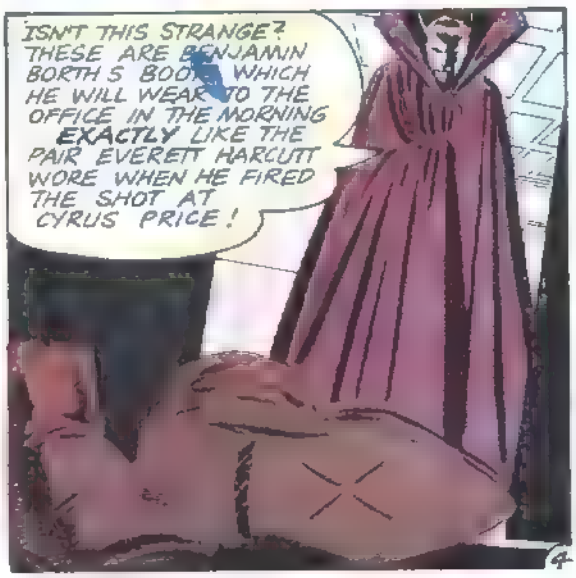
THEIR COMPANY PROSPERED HARCUTT CONTRIBUTED LEAST TO ITS SUCCESS BUT PROFITED MOST!
THOSE TWO FOOLS .THEY HATE EACH OTHER .
..PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE I KEEP THAT HATRED BURNING IN THEIR BREASTS
THEY WERE FRIENDS ONCE, *CHUCKLE*. THEN, I TOLD CYRUS HOW BENJAMIN REALLY DISLIKED HIM .. AND I REMOVED CASH FROM BENJAMIN'S SAFE AND PLACED IT IN CYRUS' DESK WHERE BENJAMIN WOULD BE SURE TO FIND IT WHEN I SUGGESTED HE SEARCH!
THE TWO FOOLS HAVE MADE ME WEALTHY! THIS MANSION WAS BOUGHT WITH THE FRUITS OF THEIR FOLLY!
BBRRR! IT'S COLD IN HERE! AND LONELY! MAYBE THAT'S WHY MY WIFE REFUSES TO STAY HERE SHE'S BEEN HOME WITH HER MOTHER FOR SEVEN YEARS.
IT IS COLD IN HERE EVEN FOR I WHO AM ACCUSTOMED TO THE CHILL OF THE GRAVE! LOOK... EVERETT HARCUTT DOES NOT SLEEP EVEN THOUGH THE HOUR IS LATE! HE SCHEMES TO DESTROY HIS FRIENDS!
IF I DID NOT HAVE TO SHARE WITH THEM, I'D GET RICHER FASTER!


CYRUS IS A HOT-TEMPERED MAN! IF HE THOUGHT BENJAMIN BORTH WAS OUT TO INJURE HIM HHMMM!

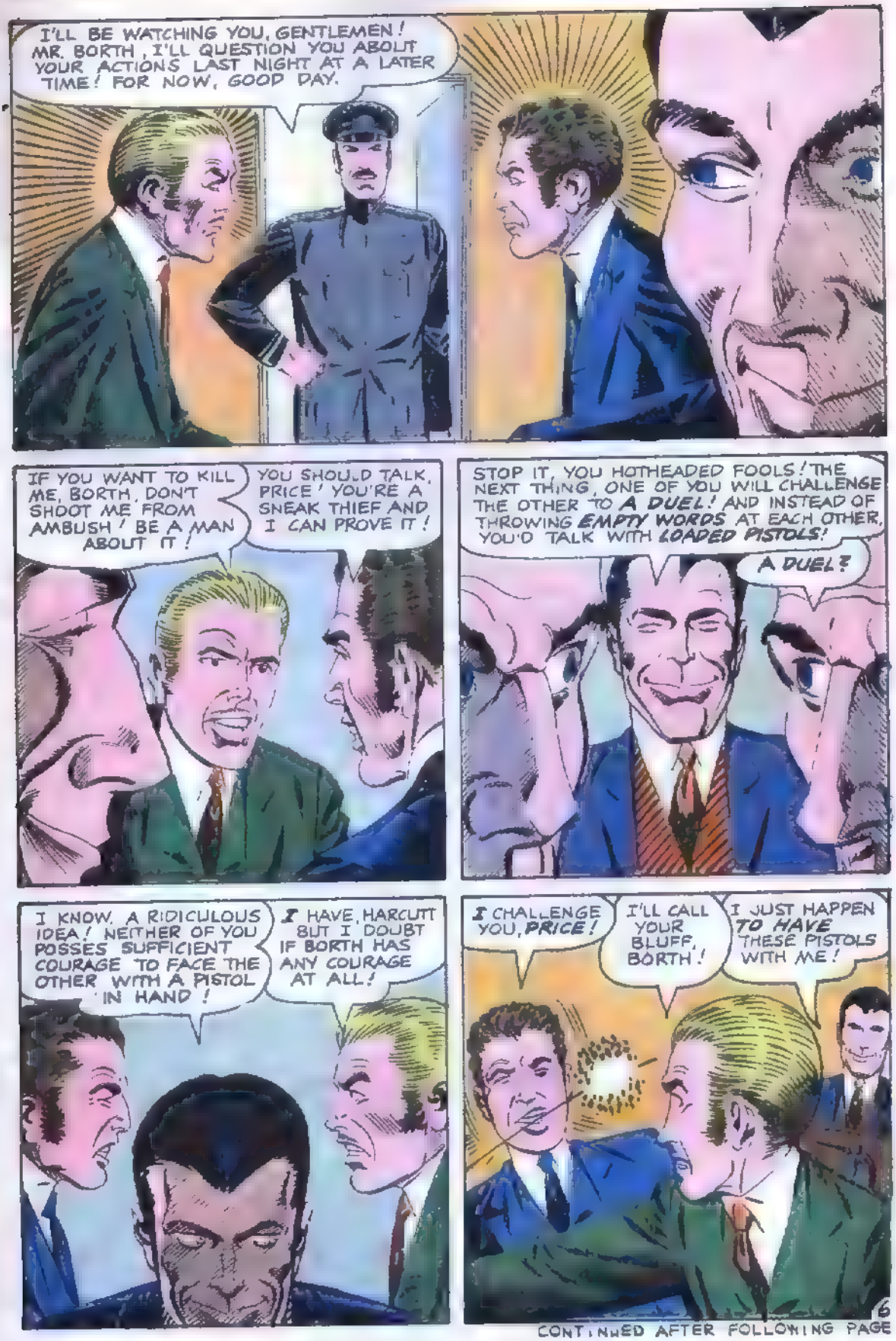

WHAT IS EVERETT HARCUTT UP TO SULKING IN THE SHADOWS OUTSIDE CYRUS PRICE'S MANSION?

NOW IT MUST BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO FRIGHTEN HIM BUT I DO NOT WANT TO INJURE HIM!


TELEPHONE THE POLICE, SOAMES! QUICKLY A MAN JUST ATTEMPTED TO MURDER ME!
THEY'LL LOOK FOR CLUES. AND THEY'LL FIND MY BOOTPRINTS IN THE MUD UNDERNEATH HIS WINDOW!


ISN'T THIS STRANGE? THESE ARE BENJAMIN BORTH'S BOOTS WHICH HE WILL WEAR TO THE OFFICE IN THE MORNING EXACTLY LIKE THE PAIR EVERETT HARCUTT WORE WHEN HE FIRED THE SHOT AT CYRUS PRICE!

THE POLICE INVESTIGATED WITHOUT SOLVING THE NEAR-MURDER... AND IN THE MORNING CAPT. MULLIGAN OF THE CITY POLICE WAS IN MR PRICE'S OFFICE.
YOU FOUND BOOT PRINTS? THEN, LET ME SHOW YOU MINE.. I WISH TO BE CLEARED OF SUSPICION AT ONCE!
NOTHING LIKE YOURS, SIR! THESE PRINTS WERE FROM A FANCY BOOT I'D KNOW THE BOOT AT ONCE!
SINCE YOU'RE EXAMINING BOOTS, PERHAPS BENJAMIN'S ARE MORE LIKE THE ONE YOU SEEK *CHUCKLE*!
MR. HARCUTT, THIS ISN'T A LAU.. MY WORD! OH, YES, OH, MY WORD!
MR BORTH, SIR, DID YOU STAND OUTSIDE MR PRICE'S WINDOW LAST NIGHT AND DISCHARGE A FIREARM WITH THE INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF BAD JOKE? I WARN YOU, PRICE, I'LL SUE IF YOU...
SUE WILL YOU? YOU BLACKGUARD, YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE TRASHING YOU'VE DESERVED FOR A LONG TIME
YOU DON'T DARE, PRICE!
I'LL BEAT THE MEANNESS OUT OF YOU, BORTH!
HERE, NOW, ENOUGH OF THAT!
5


I'LL BE WATCHING YOU, GENTLEMEN! MR. BORTH, I'LL QUESTION YOU ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS LAST NIGHT AT A LATER TIME! FOR NOW, GOOD DAY.
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, BORTH, DON'T SHOOT ME FROM AMBUSH! BE A MAN ABOUT IT!
YOU SHOULD TALK, PRICE! YOU'RE A SNEAK THIEF AND I CAN PROVE IT!
STOP IT, YOU HOTHEADED FOOLS! THE NEXT THING, ONE OF YOU WILL CHALLENGE THE OTHER TO A DUEL! AND INSTEAD OF THROWING EMPTY WORDS AT EACH OTHER, YOU'D TALK WITH LOADED PISTOLS!
A DUEL?
I KNOW. A RIDICULOUS IDEA! NEITHER OF YOU POSSES SUFFICIENT COURAGE TO FACE THE OTHER WITH A PISTOL IN HAND!
I HAVE, HARCUTT BUT I DOUBT IF BORTH HAS ANY COURAGE AT ALL!
I CHALLENGE YOU, PRICE!
I'LL CALL YOUR BLUFF, BORTH!
I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THESE PISTOLS WITH ME!

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THERE ARE NO OTHER WITNESSES EXCEPT MYSELF AND EVERETT HARCUTT WHO WILL DO NOTHING TO STOP THE MACABRE RITUAL!
BOTH GUNS ARE LOADED WITH A VERY TINY PELLET! NEITHER OF YOU CAN BE KILLED BUT TEACH HIM A LESSON! AIM CAREFULLY AT HIS HEART!
THAT'S RIGHT, CYRUS..HE CAN'T KILL YOU GIVE HIM A GOOD SCARE, THOUGH... AIM AT HIS CHEST..THE PELLET WON'T BREAK HIS SKIN!
THANKS, EVERETT .YOU'VE BEEN A REAL FRIEND!
READY...AIM...FIRE!
EACH PISTOL CONTAINED AN .80 CALIBER BALL... ENOUGH TO DESTROY AN ELEPHANT!
CYRUS, B-BEFORE I DIE...I WANT...TELL YOU..I DID NOT FIRE GUN...OTHER TIME!
I I KNOW, BEN NOR DID I STEAL FROM YOU! IT... IT WAS..
..HARCUTT PLANNED OUR DEATHS, BEN!
HE.. HE DESTROYED US, CYRUS!
YOUR OWN HATRED DESTROYED YOU, FOOLS!

WE...WE DIE TOGETHER, HARCUTT! I HAVE ONE WISH FOR YOU...
HEH HEH HEH! I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME TO DIE WITH YOU!
NO! NEVER! WE DON'T WANT YOU EVER TO DIE, HARCUTT! THE THE POLICE ARE COMING, I'LL HAVE TIME TO DICTATE A NEW WILL!
CYRUS PRICE REQUESTED THAT HE AND HIS ONE-TIME FRIEND, BENJAMIN BORTH, BE BURIED SIDE BY SIDE... AND HE ASKED THAT A THIRD HEAD-STONE BE FORMED AND A GRAVE KEPT DUG NEAR THEIRS... AWAITING THE CORPSE OF EVERETT HARCUTT! BUT HARCUTT DID NOT DIE! HEART ATTACKS STRUCK... GREAT PAIN CAME TO HIM... HORRIBLE DISEASES TORE AT HIS BODY. HE SURVIVED IT ALL! DOCTORS DO NOT KNOW WHY HE REMAINS ALIVE.. HARCUTT HIMSELF DOES NOT WISH TO LIVE! HE COMES HERE TO LOOK AT THE GRAVE WHICH WILL END HIS LIVING MISERY!
YOU TWO CURSED ME .. I DESERVED IT, I KNOW!
LOOK AT HIM, BENJY.. SHAKING WITH WEAKNESS AND PAIN. UNABLE TO BUY RELEASE EVEN WITH THE MILLIONS HE STOLE FROM US!
HEH HEH HEH HEH.
BRRR! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I KNOW A NICE MAUSOLEUM YOU MIGHT ENJOY... JUST STEP THIS WAY!

Dear Mr. Dedd:

As a longtime fan of **Ghostly Tales, Ghost Manor, The Many Ghosts of Dr. Graves** etc., there's something I've wondered about and at the risk of seeming infantile, I'll ask about.

Have you ever received, been informed of, or heard rumors of the actual existence of any supernatural beings? I mean ghosts, spirits, poltergeists, and so on?

Also, is witchcraft for real? There are cults which base their beliefs on the existence of witches. Witches (supposedly) run their lives, even directing them to commit murder. These victims of their witchy leaders seem to feel no guilt and probably the law will send to mental institutions instead of the gas chamber or prison cells.

If the people who order them to perform these dark deeds aren't really witches who owe allegiance to Satan then what are they?

How about fortune tellers? I have friends who swear by them, saying they actually foretell things which really happen. I'm asking you all these questions, Mr. Dedd, because it's your scene and you must meet a lot of these weirdos in your line of work.

Sincerely,
V. L. Salem, Mass.

Dear Vincent:

That is your first name, isn't it, even though you only signed your initials? I thought so. First, you certainly ask a lot of questions and any man from Salem, the city where those witchcraft trials were held centuries ago, should certainly know some of the answers.

We receive a great many letters from readers who insist they've seen ghosts, been haunted by them, even had to leave their homes because of them. Some men have resigned from excellent jobs and moved to other cities only to discover they brought their haunting right along with them.

In England, the existence of ghosts is accepted as unpleasant fact. There are acknowledged experts on spiritualism, men or women who venture into haunted homes or castles and endeavor to learn why the dear departed doesn't stay put in his grave or crypt. In other words, these chaps simply find the spook and subtly interrogate him by asking, "Okay, chum, what's the beef?"

The United States is probably the least believing nation in the world when it comes to supernatural life. In other parts of the world, witchcraft is believed to be a fact, voodoo is for real, ghosts roam at large, and if someone sics a spook on you, you've bought the farm!

There have been photographs taken of unexplained figures, shadows, blobs of light etc. Certainly millions believe in these things and millions more don't. All we can tell you, Vince, if you gather all the facts available and take your choice. There's one thing to remember, though.

You'll sleep better at night if you don't believe in ghosts.

Dear Haunted House:

I like the stories and art in **Ghostly Tales** pretty much but I've got a complaint. There are four or five of us (we're in junior high now) who read your ghost comics (**G. T.s, Ghost Manor, Dr. Graves**) and the same thing makes all of us mad when it happens.

This is when your stories aren't for real. Sometimes, you joke about really serious things like ghosts or witches and it isn't funny at all. There are spirits and some of us have seen them. When we make fun of such things, they become very angry.

Please don't ridicule these things from now on.

Signed,
Tom, Dick & Harry

Dear T, D, & H.:

Sorry we seem to be facetious at times about ghosts, witches, and such things but there ARE those who scoff at them and we don't want to scare them away from the cash register either. What we do is try to strike a balance between a serious presentation of some stories for those of us who believe it to be a serious subject and a spoofy, humorous approach in stories which might not be acceptable if given the 'heavy' treatment.

We've had others write in to tell us that spirits become irascible when ridiculed but that's life (or AFTER-life) and it can't be helped. You kids will have to bear with us when we get frivolous about this serious subject.

Dear Mr. Dedd:

I think your **Ghostly Tales** comic is absolutely wonderful! It has the finest stories and writing, is just perfect in every way, and I think you should get a big fat raise right away!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dedd.

Dear Anita:

Thanks, loads, and I agree with you.

Mr. Dedd

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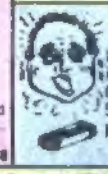

ONION GUM

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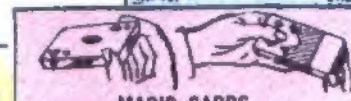

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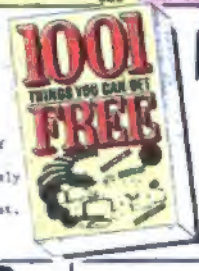

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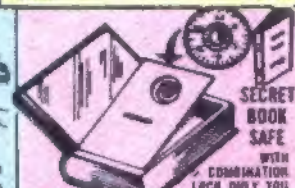

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Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

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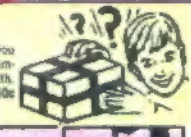

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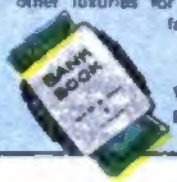

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